

Special Board of Selectmen's  
May 17, 2012

Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein; Selectman David Muller; Selectman Dennis Tracey; Town Administrator Tom Landry; Administrative Assistant Judy DeVito; Residents and members of the press.

**This meeting was recorded and videotaped. Copies are available in the Selectmen's office. The meetings are available for viewing online via the Town's website.**

**Ms. Weinstein called the meeting to order at 8:30pm**

**Pledge of Allegiance-**

**Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Tony Caputo to fill the vacancy on Weston's Sustainability Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2014.** Mr. Caputo said he was the Director of Facilities Management at Stamford Hospital. He has a background in construction. He's been a sustainability building advisor and has his masters in Transformative Conflict Resolution. He wants to be on the committee to create a sense of awareness to the issues of sustainability and green building. He has been a resident of Weston since November 2011.

Mr. Tracey moved to appoint Tony Caputo to fill a vacancy on the Weston Sustainability Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Interview regarding the Legal Review Committee- Jeffrey Eglash-** Mr. Eglash said that he has been a Weston resident for seven years and has served on the Police Commission and previously served on the Ethics Committee. He is currently an in house attorney at GE where his responsibilities include reviewing and evaluating their outside legal counsel, reviewing their bills, working to develop creative financial arrangements for the retention of counsel, evaluating their work as well as a risk management function in terms of looking at their judgments and settlements. He felt those experiences would suit him well given what he understands to be the objectives of the select committee.

Mr. Tracey said this is a really important committee and it has a very important and sensitive role. Mr. Tracey thinks that Mr. Eglash's background is extremely well suited for it.

Ms. Weinstein said that we have more people to interview for the committee at our next meeting.

**Discussion/decision regarding the Warm-Up Fund- Dawn Egan and Andy Langlois-** Attached to the minutes is the presentation that was made by the Warm-Up Fund.

Ms. Egan said that the number of families they help have decreased by 14. They had 54 last year and are down to 40 families this year. There are applications still coming in so that is a tentative number. They have provided heat and heat related assistance of approximately \$89,000 to date. The overhead expenses are only 4% because they are

very careful on how they spend money and they have a dedicated volunteer board that covers a lot of the expenses that are necessary.

Mr. Langlois went over the financials. They have kept their criteria the same this year, \$45,000 or less verified through tax returns and social security statements with a \$5,000 additional allotment per person in the household. They are talking about a small increase for next year because they believe they have a few families on that cusp and depending on their donations, they would like to be able to cover those families. They are requesting \$4,000 this year instead of the \$8,000 that they requested last year because they have fewer recipients this year.

Mr. Muller asked if we were aware of any incoming request from the Community Grants Budget between now and June 30<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Weinstein said that Ms. Hillman had mentioned that she had some concern about the social service fund but we will send a letter out in the tax bill. We have a month left in this fiscal year and then we can start appropriating money from the next fiscal year. Mr. Muller said the Warm-Up Fund benefits exclusively Weston Residents so he would be willing to be more flexible than the \$4,000 request if they felt that it would further their goals. Ms. Weinstein said her concern is people who just miss the current criteria, so if we can cover more families by having them increase that income level that would make her more comfortable. After some discussion it was decided that they would give the Warm-Up Fund \$6,000.

Mr. Muller moved to approve \$6,000 for the Warm-Up Fund from the Community Grants line item. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Dierdre Doran on Weston's Sustainability Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2014.** Ms. Doran said that their committee is devoted to education and to making people aware of environmental and sustainability issues. Ellen McCormick has put together a film series. Ms. Doran said she personally cares about water and about our land being safeguarded from pesticide use so they will have a lot of discussion about organic lawn care and how they can protect the kids on schools grounds.

Mr. Tracey moved to reappoint Dierdre Doran to Weston's Sustainability Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Interviews for the Select Committee for the Oversight of the Lachat property. Carol Baldwin; Nicholas Bell; Amy Kalafa; Ellen McCormick; Judy Saffan**  
**Carol Baldwin-** Could not attend and will attend the next meeting.

**Nicholas Bell-** Mr. Bell said he has been involved with Lachat since the inception. In the past he has been involved in the preservation of old homes. He lives in a home that dates back to 1730 and had done historic restoration consulting when he came out of graduate school. He would like to continue serving the Town. Mr. Tracey said that Mr. Bell has been a great contributor and really does have a unique perspective on Weston and

valuable contributions on preservation so he thanked him for that and he said he appreciates his willingness to continue to serve.

**Amy Kalafa-** Amy said her interest in serving on the committee goes back since the vote that rejected the former proposal for the property. She has always had this idea of making it a working farm and she has farming experience. She, her husband and a partner owned and operated the first certified organic poultry and game bird farm on the east coast in the mid 1980's when it was certainly not a trend. Many neighboring Towns have started Town farms so it is exciting for her and she wants to be a part of it. As a film producer she is used to working in a group in a committee setting and getting things done. She sees this property as a site where you can implement a lot of the projects that the Sustainability Committee wants to do. The Lachat Committee should work very closely with the Sustainability Committee and create all kinds of projects that they envision.

**Ellen McCormick-** Ellen said working on the Friends of the Library Committee really introduced her to the Town. She has been here for 10 years and has been involved for five years. She grew up on a small farm in Connecticut and has been a gardener her whole life. She is looking at the Lachat farm as a very exciting project because there is so much they can do with it. The projects that they can start there bringing it together and have the gardening and the farming side and then we can also have the cultural side with an educational component.

**Judy Saffan-** She is the Mom of four children ages 7 to 14 and she has gotten passionate about the whole local food sustainability thing from all the reading that she has done and dietary issues in her family. She read a book that talked a lot about sustainability and the inherent natural cycle that nature has given us and how we have grown in this world with industrial farming since the 1970's. She said so many of the problems in this country can be traced to food. She would like to get involved in this project to help build something to educate children to get them in on the ground level learning what to eat.

**Discussion/decision regarding amending the Select Committee for the oversight of the Lachat property to include ex-officio members.**

Ms. Weinstein said that one of the items of discussion was the need to bring in other community groups into this project. She thought it was important to add some ex-officio members from other existing committees. Mr. Muller said he wanted to be sure that we don't limit it by listing the organizations that are to be represented but to have the flexibility to appoint ex-officio members as the project goes forward.

Mr. Muller moved to amend the Mission Statement for the Select Committee for the Oversight of the Lachat property to include ex-officio members from the Sustainability Committee, the Arts Commission, the Board of Education and other committees to be named in the future. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding setting a public hearing to hear comments on the proposed Charter Revisions.** Ms. Weinstein said that we were officially given the

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Charter Revision changes on May 14<sup>th</sup> and we have 45 days from that date to set a public hearing which brings us to June 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Muller moved to set a public hearing for June 14, 2012 at 7:30pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room to hear public comment on the proposed Charter Revisions. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/decision regarding formulating the Charter Revision questions for the November ballot.** Ms. Weinstein said that she didn't think that we should make this decision now but she wanted to put it on the agenda to get people to think about it. If people want us to separate out parts of the Charter, which we can do, and vote on that separately she would consider that. She said we can make the decision at a later date.

**Discussion/decision regarding oversight the Windows and Doors project at the Weston Middle School-** Mr. Landry said the Building Committee met on May 9<sup>th</sup> and at that meeting they met with the contractor, Secondino and Sons who is under contract now. Secondino gave them a schedule which Mr. Landry gave to the Selectmen. The Building Committee approved the first payment to the contractor for work done to date.

The engineer from Kaestle Boos that had been working on the project to date is not available this summer. The Committee met the new engineer, Freddie Caricha and interviewed him. The engineer will be on site six different times through the summer doing construction meetings. The largest component of oversight is the environmental testing and reporting. Eagle environment did the scope of work that went to EPA and was approved.

The Building Committee still felt that they need to have an owner's representative represent them on the project in addition to the environmental work and in addition to Kaestle Boos oversight. They interviewed two prospective owners representative and they like both but preferred one. They are checking references and so far are very pleased but are not through that process yet. The intention of the committee is that they would hire this person who would be there 40 hours a week from late June when construction starts through late August and there would probably be some additional services after that time but not at that time level.

Mr. Tracey asked if the Building Committee and Mr. Landry were satisfied with the representative from Kaestle Boos. Mr. Landry said that he seemed well qualified enough to do the construction meetings. They had discussion about seeing something go drastically wrong and what do you do? There is this chain of command and they felt he could do it.

Mr. Tracey asked if there was a reporting process to make sure that the bench mark times are met and alarm bells ring if they are missed. Mr. Landry said that the owner's representative is there every day tracking everything and he would go to the Building Committee meetings. The Building Committee will go on site to inspect what's going on. There is a constant process of informing and communicating where they are. Ms.

Weinstein asked if we can ask the owner's representative to put something in writing to the Building Committee on a weekly basis. Mr. Landry said he would ask.. She asked Mr. Landry to communicate that to the owner's representative as well as to the Building Committee.

Mr. Tracey said that he would appreciate Mr. Landry monitoring this and being on top of it and if he sees that deadlines are not being met that are threatening the project getting done he hopes that Mr. Landry will make the Board of Selectmen aware. Mr. Landry said he would be over there himself because the wetlands mitigation project will be going on all summer between the two schools so he will make it a point to go there and go to the construction meetings when Kaestle Boos has them and will keep the Board aware.

**Request for property tax refunds:**

<b>Nissan Infiniti LT</b>	<b>\$460.03</b>
<b>Mercedes-Benz Financial Services</b>	<b>\$407.68</b>
<b>VW Credit Leasing LTD</b>	<b><u>\$396.29</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,264.00</b>

Mr. Muller moved to approve property tax refunds in the amount of \$1,264.00 as listed on the May 17, 2012 Board of Selectmen's agenda. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Open Items**

**Updates**

**Grants- Gayle Weinstein-** No new news

**Emergency Preparedness-** The Volunteer Coalition is in full swing. We have the CERT team and are looking for more members. This item will no longer be on the agenda

**Regionalization-** Nothing to report.

**Legislative update-** A copy of the Mandates Report is attached to the minutes. SWRPA/MPO was successful with the Zoning Enforcement Officer Bill, as we were able to get the whole paragraph removed that made the ZEOs personally liable.

The other bill which would have impacted us greatly is the local assessment of partially constructed structures. This is the way we currently do our tax assessment so if your home is 50% built you get taxed on that 50% that is built. There was a court case that may have put this in jeopardy because they ruled in favor of the home owner saying that the Town could not tax them at the level that they did. What this bill does is essentially codify what we have been doing.

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**Discussion/approval of the Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of April 24, 2012.**

Mr. Muller moved to approve the Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes for the meeting of April 24, 2012. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At 9:42pm Mr. Muller moved to enter into executive session to discuss the Weston Board of Education and Weston Teachers' Association contract. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Session- Contract- Weston Board of Education and Weston Teachers' Association.**

Attendance: The meeting convened at 9:45 pm in the First Selectman's office by Chairman Weinstein, with Selectmen Muller and Tracey present. Also in attendance was Town Administrator Tom Landry.

Discussion: The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed labor agreement between the Weston Board of Education and the Weston Teachers Association for the period July 2012-June 2015.

No votes were taken.

Adjourn Executive Session: At 10:01 pm, a motion (David Muller, Dennis Tracey second) to adjourn executive session and resume in open session passed unanimously.

Adjourn: 10:02pm, a motion to adjourn (Dennis Tracey, David Muller second) passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito  
Administrative Assistant  
Approved 06/07/12